

REMARKS

Acceptance/ formal entry therefor of this amendment, which, applicants submit, renders the application allowably, is respectfully requested. Supportive discussion follows.

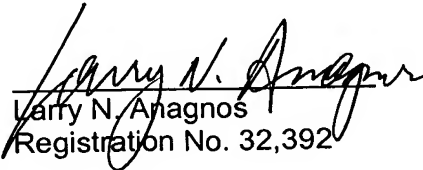
Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 1-17 and 21-24. Accordingly, it was decided, at this time, to cancel the rejected claims 18-20 in consideration of receiving an early formal notification of allowability of the above-identified application.

As to the outstanding rejection of claims 18-20, under 35 USC §102(b), it has been rendered moot with the canceling thereof. It is submitted, however, agreeing to the canceling of these claims should not be construed as an acquiescence with regard to the merits of the rejection directed thereto. Rather, the canceling of these claims was effected in consideration of applicants receiving an early formal notification of allowability with regard to the present application.

Therefore, having obviated all previously outstanding issues, formal entry therefor of this Amendment as well as early allowance of the above-identified application is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR §1.136. Please charge any shortage in the fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including Extension of Time fees, to the Deposit Account of Antonelli, Terry, Stout & Kraus, LLP, Dep. Acct. No. 01-2135 (501.33808CV4), and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
ANTONELLI, TERRY, STOUT & KRAUS, LLP


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